

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON TERMINATION OF BILATERAL
TALKS WITH VENEZUELA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: BOGOTA'S 1536 AND 0443

1. THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED A DECLARATION ON APRIL 17 WHICH
STATED THAT BILATERAL TALKS WITH VENEZUELA OVER THE TERRITORIAL
SEA AND CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA HAD BEEN
TERMINATED. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DE-
CLARATION:

" THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ADVISES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS
AGREED TO IN THE DECLARATION OF SOCHAGOTA AND CARRIED OUT IN
CONFORMITY WITH THE MODUS OPERANDI AGREEMENT OF MARCH 14, 1970
CONCERNING THE DELIMINATION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTINEN-
TAL SHELF BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELA TERMINATED IN ROME ON
APRIL 17, 1973. ALTHOUGH THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ENDED WITHOUT
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REACHING AN AGREEMENT, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BELIEVES THAT THEY WERE VERY USEFUL IN EXPLORING THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION AND FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE POSITIONS PRESENTED BY THE TWO SIDES. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS RAFFIRMS THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO SEEK PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTIONS IN HARMONY WITH THE SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT INSPIRE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE DELIMITATION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA SPOKE TO THE COUNTRY ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN A SPEECH ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA THAT WERE AGREED TO IN THE DECLARATION OF SOCHAGOTA AND THE MODUS OPERANDI AGREEMENT OF MARCH 14, 1970 WERE TERMINATED ON APRIL 17, 1973;

(B) THE NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATED WITHOUT THE HOPED FOR AGREEMENT, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL IN THE DEFINITION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' POSITIONS AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EACH HAS OF THE OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW;

(C) BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED AS A RESULT OF THE DECLARATION OF SOCHAGOTA AND THE MODUS OPERANDI AGREEMENT IS ONE JURIDICAL METHOD OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT, BUT IT DOES NOT ELIMINATE RECOURSE TO OTHER PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN THOSE AGREEMENTS OR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW;

(D) COLOMBIA LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WITH SURE CONFIDENCE EVEN THOUGH THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ENDED; AND

(E) COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA HAVE MANY REASONS BASED ON HISTORY AND THE PRESENT TASK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

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